

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 14, 2022 @ 3:30 PM

Attendees: Denise Day, Dan Klein, Matt Bacon, Jim Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Wendy DiFruscio,
Visitors: Rebecca Noe, Sean Peschel

Jim opened the meeting as there was a change in the members and a new chair needed to be elected. Dan Klein nominated Denise Day as chair, seconded by Matt Bacon. All agreed with a vote of 3-0.

Denise Day resumed the meeting by asking Suzanne to start with Policy JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use and Possession by Students.

Suzanne Filippone began by explaining that Policy JICH was back before the Policy Committee after being sent to the School Resource Officer to verify the accuracy of the prohibited substance list on the second page, and whether this was a complete list or if he had any suggested changes. The SRO related that this was an accurate list as written.

Denise asked if the committee had any additional questions pertaining to this policy. There were no questions, but it was determined that moving forward the District name will be spelled out the first time and then subsequent use throughout the remaining policy the acronym will be used. It was also suggested that Policy JICD – Student Discipline be added as an additional Legal Reference. This policy is ready for a first read at the April 20, 2022 Board meeting.

Dan Klein verified that moving forward the use of pronouns in any reviewed policy will be adjusted as needed to be more neutral.

Jim took a moment to review with Matt the process that is used for moving a policy from the committee to the School Board and that it takes two Board meetings with a first and second read to finalize.

Dan also noted that the policy packet is provided to all Board members the Friday before the scheduled meeting allowing them time to notify Jim if they have a concern or questions with any policies in the packet before they get to the School Board level.

Policy IMBA – Distance Education – Jim turned this over to Suzanne, Sean and Rebecca to report out on. Suzanne stated that this policy has quite a few colors and revisions on it as it had gone to the policy committee, the School Board, back to Policy and then to Suzanne, Sean and Rebecca for their review and revisions. Suzanne explained why this policy exists and why it is so challenging.

Denise asked if it would be possible to get a clean version of this policy for review. While waiting the committee moved to the next policy for review.

Policy IHBI – Alternative Learning Plans – a review of this policy was done with some grammatical changes that need to be made along with adding Policy IMBA – Distance Education as an additional cross reference. This policy is ready for a first read at the April 20, 2022 Board meeting.

A clean version of Policy IMBA – Distance Education was brought forward, and the discussion continued on this policy. The committee felt that additional revisions needed to be made grammatically and felt that this policy will be placed on hold, revisions made and brought back to the policy meeting on May 12th before sending to the Board for a first read.

Matt suggested that moving forward whenever additional polices were referred to in an existing policy that parentheses be used to distinguish them from the main text.

Denise suggested that when this is brought back in May that a clean version be given as well for easier reading.

Sean stated that the last paragraph pertaining to funding was added to the end to keep consistency with other similar policies.

Policy IMBC – Alternative Credit Options was another policy that was reviewed and revised by Suzanne, Sean and Rebecca. Suzanne explained the reasoning behind the strike outs and that it was a redundancy to the ELO Policy.

Jim questioned why there was a strike through on the paragraph surrounding demonstrating knowledge. A brief discussion ensued, and it was determined that the paragraph was stricken in error. This will be added back in and Policy IK – Graduation will be added to the cross reference. This policy will be ready for a first read at the April 20, 2022 School Board meeting.

A this point Policy JBAB – Transgender and Gender Nonconforming was added to the Policy Agenda at the request of the DEIJ Committee. Jim explained that the DEIJ Committee has met and offered a revised version of the existing policy that has been in effect for 7 years and requires updating. They additionally requested if the policy could be fast tracked to the next School Board meeting for a first read.

Denise believed that there was additional language discussed that was added to the revisions, but she does not see those changes reflected here.

Dan questioned the need for such a fast turnaround. Additionally, could there be an issue that the new DEIJ Coordinator was not part of this revision. He questioned where the concern was for bringing this forward so quickly.

Denise agreed with Dan not to accelerate this policy. The normal process would have it going out with the Board packet which would allow the Board members to weigh in on the revisions and also give them time to ask questions before it reaches the Board level.

Jim suggested that we bring this policy back at the May 12th meeting and have members of the DEIJ Committee come to this meeting and explain their reasonings behind the policy changes. He also suggested that the procedure would be the document that the new DEIJ Coordinator would rewrite.

There was no additional questions or comments. Meeting ended at 4:30 PM – Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12th.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant